

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference S04P1154W000	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/JP2004/009843	International filing date (day/month/year) 09.07.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 28.08.2003	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC H04N7/173, G06F17/30			
Applicant SONY CORPORATION			

<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i>) a total of 5 sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the International Bureau only</i>) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</p>
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Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/009843

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____ which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:

international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
 international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

the international application as originally filed/furnished
 the description:
 pages 1-22 as originally filed/furnished
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the claims:
 nos. 2, 6-10, 12, 16-20 as originally filed/furnished
 nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
 nos.* 1, 4-5, 11, 14-15, 21 received by this Authority on 01.02.2005
 nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the drawings:
 sheets fig. 1-13 as originally filed/furnished
 sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages _____
 the claims, nos. 3, 13 _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

the description, pages _____
 the claims, nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.
PCT/JP2004/009843

Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
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1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-2, 4-12, 14-21	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims		YES
	Claims	1-2, 4-12, 14-21	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-2, 4-12, 14-21	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Document 1: JP 2000-112976 A (Hitachi, Ltd.), 21 April 2000, entire text, all drawings

Document 2: JP 2003-189333 A (Nippon Telegraph And Telephone Corp.), 04 July 2003, entire text, all drawings

Document 3: JP 2003-153304 A (D. B. C. Inc.), 23 May 2003, entire text, all drawings

(1) Claims 1 to 2, 5 to 12 and 15 to 21

The inventions set forth in claims 1 to 2, 5 to 12 and 15 to 21 do not involve an inventive step in the light of document 1 cited in the international search report.

Document 1 discloses an invention wherein sets of information that pertain to the viewing selections (for example, the items that are illustrated in fig. 6) are generated based on information that is associated with a viewing history.

In addition, document 1 discloses a configuration wherein the viewing history is acquired in the user device (refer to the illustrations in fig. 1 and fig. 2, taking special note of the items that are identified by reference signs 113 and 105).

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/009843

Box No. V **Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

In general, the technical feature whereby the results from statistics, tabulations and rankings are provided in a manner which focuses on superordinate (or subordinate) elements (while ignoring the remaining elements) is well known not only to persons skilled in the art, but also to ordinary members of the public.

Consequently, it would have been easy for a person skilled in the art to conceive of configuring the inventions that are set forth in claims 1 to 2, 5 to 12 and 15 to 21 by employing the abovementioned well-known technical feature in the invention that is disclosed in document 1.

(2) Claims 4 and 14

The inventions set forth in claims 4 and 14 do not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 1 to 3 cited in the international search report.

Document 1 discloses an invention wherein sets of information that pertain to the viewing selections (for example, the items that are illustrated in fig. 6) are generated based on information that is associated with a viewing history.

Meanwhile, documents 2 to 3 present the technical concept of acquiring a viewing history via a communication line and then providing the information for the viewing selections to a user via the communication line.

Consequently, it would have been easy for a person skilled in the art to conceive of configuring the inventions that are set forth in claims 4 and 14 by employing the abovementioned technical concept that is presented in documents 2 to 3 in the invention that is disclosed in document 1.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/009843

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement